

Listing of the Claims:

1-36 (Canceled).

37. (New) A computer-implemented method, comprising:
generating a plurality of subdirectory names, wherein each subdirectory name is random;
creating a plurality of randomly-named cache directories, one for each random subdirectory name generated;
storing a plurality of files under the plurality of randomly-named cache directories, each of the plurality of files having a predictable filename; and
automatically balancing the files among each of the plurality of randomly-named cache directories.

38. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 37 further comprising, receiving information corresponding to a new file to store.

39. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 37, wherein automatically balancing files among each of the plurality of randomly-named cache directories includes determining which of the directories has a least number of files therein.

40. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 37, wherein automatically balancing files among each of the plurality of randomly-named cache directories includes determining when a randomly-named cache directory has a number of files stored therein that exceeds a limit.

41. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 37, further comprising, receiving information corresponding to a new file to store, determining that each of the plurality of randomly-named cache directories has a number of files therein that exceeds a limit, and automatically creating at least one new randomly-named cache directory.

42. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 37 further comprising, for each file, tracking which of the plurality of randomly-named cache directories that file is stored in.

43. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 37 further comprising, maintaining a count of a number of files stored in each of the plurality of randomly-named cache directories.

44. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 37 wherein at least one of the plurality of randomly-named cache directories caches content downloaded from a server.

45. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 44 further comprising, maintaining a table including server content references and filenames converted therefrom.

46. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 37, wherein automatically balancing files among each of the plurality of randomly-named cache directories includes determining a randomly-named cache directory having a lowest file count, and moving files from another randomly-named cache directory to the randomly-named cache directory having the lowest file count.

47. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 37, further comprising, maintaining an index including a directory name for each of the plurality of randomly-named cache directories, and for each directory name, maintaining a file count of a number of files stored therein.

48. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 37, further comprising, comparing the number of files in one of the plurality of randomly-named cache directories having the least number of files therein against a predetermined threshold value, and based on the comparison, generating at least one additional randomly-named cache directory.

49. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 37, further comprising, maintaining an indexed directory table including data corresponding to each of the plurality of randomly-named cache directories therein, and maintaining a table including file information and corresponding file directory information for each file in one of the plurality of randomly-named cache directories.

50. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 37, wherein automatically balancing files among each of the plurality of randomly-named cache directories includes moving at least one file from one of the plurality of randomly-named cache directories to another of the plurality of randomly-named cache directories following deletion of at least one other file.

51. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 37, further comprising maintaining a file count of a number of files stored in each of the plurality of randomly-named cache directories, and wherein automatically balancing files among each of the plurality of randomly-named cache directories includes moving at least one file out of one of the plurality of randomly-named cache directories when the file count maintained therefor is below a threshold value.

52. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 51, further comprising removing one of the plurality of randomly-named cache directories based on the file count maintained therefor.

53. (New) In a computing device having a file system, a system, comprising:

a random generator;

a name-generation mechanism operably coupled to the random generator to generate a subdirectory name that is random;

a balancing mechanism operably coupled to the name-generation mechanism and operably coupled via an interface to the file system to automatically create a randomly-named cache directory based on a random subdirectory name, the balancing mechanism further configured to distribute files from at least one randomly-named cache directory in the file system to another randomly-named cache directory in the file system;

a mechanism configured to determine a predictable filename and to store a file with the predictable filename in a randomly-named cache directory of the file system; and

a data structure, the data structure maintained by the balancing mechanism to track information on the files in a randomly-named cache directory.

54. (New) The system of claim 53 further comprising a plurality of randomly-named cache directories created by the balancing mechanism.

55. (New) The system of claim 53 wherein the balancing mechanism receives information corresponding to a new file to store.

56. (New) The system of claim 53, wherein the balancing mechanism distributes the files based on a number of files in the at least one other directory.

57. (New) The system of claim 54, wherein the balancing mechanism creates an additional randomly-named cache directory for distributing files thereto.

58. (New) The system of claim 57, wherein the balancing mechanism receives information corresponding to files to store, and distributes those files based on a file count of one of the plurality of randomly-named cache directories and the additional randomly-named cache directory.

59. (New) The system of claim 57 further comprising, a table having information therein indicating which directory each file is stored in.

60. (New) The system of claim 57, wherein the balancing mechanism is configured to create the additional directory upon a determination that the one of the plurality of randomly-named cache directories has a number of files stored therein that exceeds a limit.

61. (New) The system of claim 53 wherein the data structure includes a count of a number of files stored in each randomly-named cache directory.

62. (New) The system of claim 53 wherein at least one randomly-named cache directory caches content downloaded from a server.

63. (New) The system of claim 53 wherein the data structure includes a directory name for each randomly-named cache directory and a file count of a number of files stored in each randomly-named cache directory.

64. (New) The system of claim 53 wherein the balancing mechanism is further configured to move at least one file from at least one randomly-named cache directory in the file system to another randomly-named cache directory in the file system in response to deletion of at least one other file.

65. (New) The system of claim 53 wherein the data structure tracks a file count of a number of files stored in each randomly-named cache directory, and wherein the balancing mechanism is further configured to move at least one

file out of a randomly-named cache directory when the file count maintained therefor is below a threshold value.

66. (New) The system of claim 65, wherein the balancing mechanism removes a randomly-named cache directory based on the file count maintained therefor.

67. (New) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a data structure, comprising:

a first field identifying one of a plurality of randomly-named cache directories; and

a second data field including data corresponding to a number of files stored in the randomly-named cache directory identified in the first data field, the second data field updated as files are moved among the plurality of randomly-named cache directories.